



HIDALGO COUNTY BY-LAWS

**OF THE AUTHORIZED VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS
WITH HIDALGO COUNTY**

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-38

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING
THE HIDALGO COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT BY-LAWS**

WHEREAS, the various rural authorized Volunteer Fire Departments within Hidalgo County have each been established by the Board of County Commissioners of Hidalgo County for the purpose of fire and rescue operations within the boundaries of their respective districts and to provide emergency assistance within, and whenever practical outside these districts; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Hidalgo County finds that it would be in the best interest of the County to adopt a standard set of by-laws for the several authorized Volunteer Fire Departments within Hidalgo County; and,

WHEREAS, the Fire Chiefs of the authorized Volunteer Fire Departments within the Hidalgo County have had the opportunity to give their recommendation(s), on behalf of their respective departments, that such a standardized set of by-laws be adopted;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Hidalgo County, New Mexico that a standardized set of by-laws are hereby adopted which will serve as the common by-laws of these several authorized Volunteer Fire Departments, and of any future Volunteer Fire Departments established within Hidalgo County.

ARTICLE I

1.0 ORGANIZATIONS

- 1.1 The authorized Volunteer Fire Departments subject to these unified by-laws shall be the following: Hidalgo County Fire Department, District one, Gila-Neblett Volunteer Fire Department, Cotton City Fire Department, Animas Volunteer Fire Department, Rodeo Volunteer Fire Department, and the Playas Fire District.
- 1.2 These Fire Departments are Volunteer Departments established to protect the authorized independent County Fire Districts and their areas of coverage in Hidalgo County. These by-laws shall apply to the membership of each Volunteer Fire Department's within Hidalgo County and shall here after be referred to as "Fire Department" for the purpose of these by-laws.
- 1.3 These authorized Volunteer Fire Departments shall have the following purposes:
 - 1.3.1 To prevent and to control fires within their respective Fire Districts and areas of coverage.
 - 1.3.2 To aid, whenever possible and practical, the residents in and the commuters to or through their respective districts and the other Fire Districts within Hidalgo County when called upon.

ARTICLE II

2.0 FIRE OFFICIALS / OFFICERS

- 2.1 Each Volunteer Fire Department shall maintain a chain of command. The numbers of Officers in the department shall be determined by the needs of each respective Fire Department. At minimum each Fire Department shall have:
 - 2.2.1 (1) Fire Chief
 - 2.2.2 (1) Assistant/Deputy Chief
 - 2.2.3 (1) Treasurer
 - 2.2.4 (1) Secretary
- 2.2 The minimum qualifications of Line Officers shall be as follows:

- 2.3.1 Chief. This Officer must be a member of the Volunteer Fire Department for a period of at least one year.
- 2.3.2 Assistant Chief. The qualifications of this Officer shall be the same as those of the Chief.
- 2.3.3 All other Officers shall have the same qualifications as the Chief and Assistant Chief except that only six months membership shall be required.
- 2.3.4 No family relative of the Chief, by virtue of birth or marriage shall hold a position as "Treasurer" in a Volunteer Fire Department.

ARTICLE III

3.0 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- 3.1 Each Fire Department shall have an election process for the purpose of determining chain of command. The election process and terms of the elected officers shall be outlined in each Fire Departments standard operating procedure manual.
- 3.2 At said meeting/election each elected Officer shall assume the duties of his/her respective office for the ensuing term.
- 3.3 The County Fire Marshal shall be notified in writing within 3 business days the results of the Fire Department elections.
- 3.4 The Selection of Fire Chief may be subject to approval of the Hidalgo County Commission.
- 3.5 A member must have active status and have continuous service with the department for not less than 90 days immediately prior to the nominations of Officers to nominate a member for Office.
- 3.6 A member must have active status and have continuous service with the department for no less than 90 days to vote in the election.

ARTICLE IV

4.0 DUTIES OF FIRE OFFICIALS

4.1 Fire Marshal: